

1 few years, particularly after the first few years they
2 said it is highly important not to fix the date. Otherwise
3 you lose the whole point of the new Constitution.

4 The 1864 Constitution reads: "The General
5 Assembly shall continue its session so long as in their
6 judgment the public interest may require."

7 We were then at war. We are now in the midst
8 of problems that are as serious as many which brought us
9 to war in 1864. They saw then that you could not fix
10 a session when you had serious problems. It was only at
11 the time of the 1867 Constitution which under
12 article III, sections 14 and 15, set forth a specific clos-
13 ing date 90 days after the opening. Why was that specific
14 closing date set?

15 I am not just quoting history to be historical,
16 but to draw parallels. There was a real fear that the
17 legislature would be doing too much. Here we believe that
18 we want the legislature to assume itself, the fear there
19 would be damage on the part of this legislature that had
20 in a sense supported the Union position. Thus you note
21 by giving the Maryland legislature the power to set the